

Testimony of Rebecca Lilley in support of LD 1020

April 3, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Rebecca Lilley, I live in Scarborough Maine, and I am a co-owner of Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook, ME, along with my siblings.

I support LD 1020 because:

- Smiling Hill Farm is dates back to 1720
- Smiling Hill Farm is the closest working dairy farm to downtown Portland, making it unique in the area
- Since the early 80's, the farm has invited the public to visit... to enjoy a peaceful country environment. Sitting on a picnic table outside eating lunch or licking an ice cream cone brings sounds of birds singing, cows mooing, or the stillness of silence...all of which are rare in this area.
- We have also provided many educational opportunities, teaching children about the farm and our animals.
- Both the Scarborough Town Council and the Westbrook City Council voted to rescind their support of the connector
- Continuing to face the threat of losing our land.. brings with it the threat of losing our serene country farm setting and customers, losing food for our cows, and losing our farm itself... thereby ending our family's generational legacy of dairy farming
- Farms in Maine are disappearing, and the property that the remaining farms encompass should therefore be cherished, preserved, and protected.

I am urging you to repeal the Gorham connector...and to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you

Rebecca Lilley
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